

John Torrey, a Story of North American Botany. By ANDREW DENNY RODGERS III. Pp. 1-352. Princeton University Press, 1942. \$3.75.

Mr. Rogers has included in one volume an amazing wealth of information on the history of botanical exploration in North America. He is to be congratulated on presenting such a comprehensive picture of the life of John Torrey. Torrey, professor of chemistry at Columbia and Princeton, was by avocation a botanist. Through his pioneering efforts, the systematization of the flora of this continent was begun. He arranged and described the collections of numerous individuals and expeditions—Fremont, Emory, Owen, Whipple, Ives, the Mexican Boundary Survey, the United States Exploring Expeditions, and many others. He was founder of the Torrey Herbarium, now housed at the New York Botanical Garden, and of the United States National Herbarium. His influence was extended by his association with the foremost botanists of his time, one of his first proteges being Asa Gray. The large amount of material from original sources which is made generally available for the first time in this book is intensely interesting as well as invaluable to a study of the history of botanical exploration.—MILDRED MATHIAS, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley.

Geographical Guide to the Floras of the World. Part I. By S. F. BLAKE AND ALICE C. ATWOOD. United States Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publication 401, pp. 1-336. Washington, D. C. June, 1942. \$0.75.

Here is the first part of a catalogue, unique in its field, that is destined to become one of the most useful books in the entire science of botany. Its value has been adequately demonstrated to the reviewer many times during the short time that the book has been in his possession. The work is a bibliographic catalogue listing in geographic order the floras and floristic accounts of the various geographic units of the world. In general, only complete works are included, but for little known regions collector's lists are sometimes cited. Both general and local floras are included and most of the entries are annotated to indicate the content of the work. Part one deals with Africa, Australia, insular areas, North America and South America. To the authors are due the thanks of the entire botanical profession for performing so well a task that doubtless entailed much drudgery.

It is to be hoped that this work may serve as a stimulus to inspire some bibliographically inclined individual to compile and publish a companion volume which will guide students to the literature dealing with taxonomic accounts, in whole or in part, of the families and genera of the flowering plants.—HERBERT L. MASON.